mission on Rural Labour to study the probems of rural labour in the country and make recommendations. The Commission had inter-alia made certain observations regarding problem of beedi workers, one of which was the problem of child labour in the beedi industry. Beedi industry is mainly a home-based indusrty where the majority of workers roll beedis in their own houses with the help of material supplied by the employers/contractors. The employment of children below 14 years of age in industrial premises is prohibited under the provisions of Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966. However, the home-based beedi workers do take the help of their family members including children in rolling beedis. The children of beedi workers are entitled receive medical care from dispensaries/hospitals set up under Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund. No survey/study regarding number of child labour or children being mortgaged or bonded to the beedi industry has been made. In view of this, there is no proposal at present to bring about any legislation in this regard.

Factory causing dust related diseases among workers

2415. DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study to identify the factories/units in the country causing dust related diseases among the workers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) According to information available in this Ministry some studies carried out in the past in some factories/units in which workers were exposed to asbestos silica, cotton, coal and metallic dusts, revealed the following incidence of occupational diseases during the course of studies:

Occupational Diseases	Number of workers Examined	Incidence (%)
Asbestosis	712	7.2
Silicosis	2033	27.6
Byssinosis	1241	8.8
Coal workers Pneumocaniosis	950	18.8
Lead Poisoning (Due to exposure) to fumes and dusts	363	9.8

The permissible levels of exposure in the work environment in respect of asbestos, silica dust, cotton dust, lead, manganese and other toxic chemicals etc. have been laid down under the Factories Act, 1948. The industries which handle asbestos, Silica (glass and ceramic etc.), coal, lead and its compound, non-ferrous metallurgical industries, insecricides and pesticides etc. have been included in the list of industries involving hazardous processes under the Factories Act, 1948. A new chapter for regulating safety and health aspects in the hazardous process industries has been incorporated in the above Act in the year 1987. The provisions of the Act are required to be complied with by the 'Occupier' of the Factory and enforced by the respective State Governments' Union Territory administrations.

Misappropriation of Povident Fund Accumulations

@2416. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidence of mis-appropriation of Provident Fund accumulations by the corporate sector both, private and public and if so, the names of the companies and the sums defalcated by each during the last three years; and

(b) what steps are being taken to protest the interests of the affected workers and their families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Functioning of regional officers of provident fund commissioners

2417. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the various Regional Offices of Provident Fund Commissioners are functioning in a very inefficient way;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to modernise and streamline the functioning of the Regional Offices of Provident Fund Commissioners; and

(c) what is the number of cases pending with Regional Office of Provident Fund Commissioner in Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The functioning of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners is generally satisfactory. However, in order to provide prompt service to the E.P.F. subscribers and streamlining the accounting procedure, a massive computerisation programme has been launched in the EPF Organisation. A central action plan covering substantial areas of work has also been initiated for improving the system's efficiency and effectiveness.

(c) As on 31.12.1992 as against 41547 cases received relating to final settlement, 902 cases were pending.

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण श्रम आयोग को मान्यता दिया जाना

2418. **श्री राम नरेश यादव** : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण श्रम आयोग को पूर्णतया और स्थायी

@ Previousy Unstarred Question 1602 transferred from 9th March, 1993.